

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for providing visualization of market offers, comprising a computer system operable to:

5 receive offer data for a plurality of offers, the received offer data reflecting values specified in the offers for a plurality of offer variables; and

generate a display of the received offer data, the display comprising:

10 a plurality of dimensions each corresponding to an offer variable and comprising a range of values of the offer variable, the dimensions defining a multi-dimensional space, each position within the multi-dimensional space corresponding to a set of values of the offer variables; and

15 a plurality of geometrically-shaped icons, each icon representing an offer and being positioned with respect to the dimensions of the display according to the values of the offer variables for the offer, the different positions of the offers within the display allowing a user to readily visually compare the offers in connection with a market decision.

20 2. The system of Claim 1, wherein each geometrically-shaped icon is sized to represent a package size for the associated offer, the package size indicating a quantity of items that may be exchanged in a single transaction or as a single unit for the associated offer.

25 3. The system of Claim 1, wherein the display comprises a plurality of arrows each associated with an icon and representing the movement of the icon from a first position within the display to a second position within the display over a time interval.

4. The system of Claim 1, wherein the computer system is operable to update the positions of the icons within the display in substantially real time as market conditions change.

5. The system of Claim 1, wherein the user is a buyer and the offers comprise asks only from sellers on an approved vendor list (AVL).

5 6. The system of Claim 1, wherein the display is three-dimensional and the offer variables corresponding to the dimensions comprise price, quantity, and at least one additional offer variable.

7. The system of Claim 1, wherein the geometrically-shaped icons are polyhedrons.

8. The system of Claim 1, wherein the computer system is operable to:  
access a user request, the request comprising a plurality of entered values for a plurality of offer variables; and  
15 generate within the display a geometrically-shaped icon representing the user request, the icon for the request being positioned with respect to the dimensions of the display according to the entered values of the offer variables for the request, such that the user may compare the icon for the user request with the icons for one or more offers in connection with a market decision.

20 9. The system of Claim 8, where the computer system is operable to:  
receive a selection of a particular icon associated with a particular offer;  
receive an instruction to generate an order based on the values for the offer associated with the selected icon;  
25 in response to receiving the instruction, automatically generate an order based on the values for the offer associated with the selected icon; and  
communicate the generated order for matching with the selected offer.

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10. The system of Claim 9, wherein the computer system is operable to display the values specified in the user request and the values specified in the offer associated with the selected icon to allow the user to compare these values before providing an instruction to generate an order.

10. The system of Claim 9, wherein the computer system is operable to display the values specified in the user request and the values specified in the offer associated with the selected icon to allow the user to compare these values before providing an instruction to generate an order.

11. A method of providing visualization of market offers, comprising:  
receiving offer data for a plurality of offers, the received offer data reflecting  
values specified in the offers for a plurality of offer variables; and  
generating a display of the received offer data, the display comprising:

5 a plurality of dimensions each corresponding to an offer variable and  
comprising a range of values of the offer variable, the dimensions defining a multi-  
dimensional space, each position within the multi-dimensional space corresponding to  
a set of values of the offer variables; and

10 a plurality of geometrically-shaped icons, each icon representing an  
offer and being positioned with respect to the dimensions of the display according to  
the values of the offer variables for the offer, the different positions of the offers  
within the display allowing a user to readily visually compare the offers in connection  
with a market decision.

15 12. The method of Claim 11, wherein each geometrically-shaped icon is  
sized to represent a package size for the associated offer, the package size indicating a  
quantity of items that may be exchanged in a single transaction or as a single unit for  
the associated offer.

20 13. The method of Claim 11, wherein the display comprises a plurality of  
arrows each associated with an icon and representing the movement of the icon from a  
first position within the display to a second position within the display over a time  
interval.

25 14. The method of Claim 11, further comprising updating the positions of  
the icons within the display in substantially real time as market conditions change.

15. The method of Claim 11, wherein the user is a buyer and the offers  
comprise asks only from sellers on an approved vendor list (AVL).

16. The method of Claim 11, wherein the display is three-dimensional and the offer variables corresponding to the dimensions comprise price, quantity, and at least one additional offer variable.

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17. The method of Claim 11, wherein the geometrically-shaped icons are polyhedrons.

18. The method of Claim 11, further comprising:  
10 accessing a user request, the request comprising a plurality of entered values for a plurality of offer variables; and  
generating within the display a geometrically-shaped icon representing the user request, the icon for the request being positioned with respect to the dimensions of the display according to the entered values of the offer variables for the request,  
15 such that the user may compare the icon for the user request with the icons for one or more offers in connection with a market decision.

19. The method of Claim 18, further comprising:  
receiving a selection of a particular icon associated with a particular offer;  
20 receiving an instruction to generate an order based on the values for the offer associated with the selected icon;  
in response to receiving the instruction, automatically generating an order based on the values for the offer associated with the selected icon; and  
communicating the generated order for matching with the selected offer.

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20. The method of Claim 19, further comprising displaying the values specified in the user request and the values specified in the offer associated with the selected icon to allow the user to compare these values before providing an instruction to generate an order.

21. Software for providing visualization of market offers, the software being embodied in computer-readable media and when executed operable to:

receive offer data for a plurality of offers, the received offer data reflecting values specified in the offers for a plurality of offer variables; and

5 generate a display of the received offer data, the display comprising:

a plurality of dimensions each corresponding to an offer variable and comprising a range of values of the offer variable, the dimensions defining a multi-dimensional space, each position within the multi-dimensional space corresponding to a set of values of the offer variables; and

10 a plurality of geometrically-shaped icons, each icon representing an offer and being positioned with respect to the dimensions of the display according to the values of the offer variables for the offer, the different positions of the offers within the display allowing a user to readily visually compare the offers in connection with a market decision.

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22. The software of Claim 21, wherein each geometrically-shaped icon is sized to represent a package size for the associated offer, the package size indicating a quantity of items that may be exchanged in a single transaction or as a single unit for the associated offer.

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23. The software of Claim 21, wherein the display comprises a plurality of arrows each associated with an icon and representing the movement of the icon from a first position within the display to a second position within the display over a time interval.

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24. The software of Claim 21, operable to update the positions of the icons within the display in substantially real time as market conditions change.

25. The software of Claim 21, wherein the user is a buyer and the offers comprise asks only from sellers on an approved vendor list (AVL).

26. The software of Claim 21, wherein the display is three-dimensional  
5 and the offer variables corresponding to the dimensions comprise price, quantity, and at least one additional offer variable.

27. The software of Claim 21, wherein the geometrically-shaped icons are  
10 polyhedrons.

28. The software of Claim 21, operable to:  
access a user request, the request comprising a plurality of entered values for a  
plurality of offer variables; and  
generate within the display a geometrically-shaped icon representing the user  
15 request, the icon for the request being positioned with respect to the dimensions of the  
display according to the entered values of the offer variables for the request, such that  
the user may compare the icon for the user request with the icons for one or more  
offers in connection with a market decision.

29. The software of Claim 28, operable to:  
receive a selection of a particular icon associated with a particular offer;  
receive an instruction to generate an order based on the values for the offer  
associated with the selected icon;  
in response to receiving the instruction, automatically generate an order based  
25 on the values for the offer associated with the selected icon; and  
communicate the generated order for matching with the selected offer.

30. The software of Claim 29, operable to display the values specified in the user request and the values specified in the offer associated with the selected icon to allow the user to compare these values before providing an instruction to generate an order.



31. A system for providing visualization of market offers, comprising:  
means for receiving offer data for a plurality of offers, the received offer data  
reflecting values specified in the offers for a plurality of offer variables; and  
means for generating a display of the offer data, the display comprising:

5 a plurality of dimensions each corresponding to an offer variable and  
comprising a range of values of the offer variable, the dimensions defining a multi-  
dimensional space, each position within the multi-dimensional space corresponding to  
a set of values of the offer variables; and

10 a plurality of geometrically-shaped icons, each icon representing an  
offer and being positioned with respect to the dimensions of the display according to  
the values of the offer variables for the offer, the different positions of the offers  
within the display allowing a user to readily visually compare the offers in connection  
with a market decision.

32. A system for providing visualization of market offers, comprising a computer system operable to:

receive offer data for a plurality of offers, the received offer data reflecting values specified in the offers for a plurality of offer variables;

5 generate a display of the received offer data, the display comprising:

a plurality of dimensions each corresponding to an offer variable and comprising a range of values of the offer variable, the dimensions defining a multi-dimensional space, each position within the multi-dimensional space corresponding to a set of values of the offer variables; and

10 a plurality of geometrically-shaped icons, each icon representing an offer and being positioned with respect to the dimensions of the display according to the values of the offer variables for the offer, the different positions of the offers within the display allowing a user to readily visually compare the offers in connection with a market decision;

15 access a user request, the request comprising a plurality of entered values for a plurality of offer variables;

generate within the display a geometrically-shaped icon representing the user request, the icon for the request being positioned with respect to the dimensions of the display according to the entered values of the offer variables for the request, such that  
20 the user may compare the icon for the user request with the icons for one or more offers in connection with a market decision.

receive a selection of a particular icon associated with a particular offer;

receive an instruction to generate an order based on the values for the offer associated with the selected icon;

25 in response to receiving the instruction, automatically generate an order based on the values for the offer associated with the selected icon; and

communicate the generated order for matching with the selected offer.